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# ***Complete Communities***

## ***Kashmere Gardens Kick-Off***

### ***Summary of Activities***



September 10, 2019, 6 pm  
Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center  
4802 Lockwood Drive, Houston, TX 77026

## **OVERVIEW**

The Kashmere Gardens Kick-Off took place on September 10, 2019, 6 pm at the Kashmere Gardens Multi-Service Center, 4802 Lockwood Drive, Houston, TX 77026. Community members participated in several facilitated exercises. Responses are listed below and grouped by category. A proposed list of departments relevant to each topic is listed below each category heading (a key provided on last page). Note: x# = the frequency of a given comment. Example: Build a grocery store – x11 signifies 11 comments to build a grocery store were collected.

## **ECONOMY AND JOBS**

Departments and Agencies: OBO, MOED, MOI

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Availability of underdeveloped land – x4
  - Has great potential for growth/development
- Re-entry programs are available for people to find jobs and programs

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Need for a grocery store – x11
  - Just 1 Fiesta with low quality
  - Like HEB/Kroger in areas of vacant houses/vacant lands
  - Along Lockwood Drive, a main street
- Lack of retail development – x4
  - Increase development around Liberty and Lockwood Roads
- Cellular and internet connectivity is a need – x3
- Marketing and communicating existing resources – x3
- Lack of restaurants and quality food places – x3
- People find it hard to find jobs – x3
- Lack of incentives for businesses to come to the community
- Improve the Walgreens (Lockwood, Homestead, and Tidwell, Lyons)
- Job training programs – x3
  - Vocational

- Financial literacy programs are needed
- Need something to support/draw in more nonprofits
- Not enough professional facilities

Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- More retail, restaurant, and entertainment options – x15
  - grocery store (HEB, Kroger?)
  - Walkable retail corridor
  - Local-owned businesses
  - Along major corridors like Lockwood
  - Hangout spots for younger people – networking hubs and coffee shops
- More jobs and training, vocational opportunities – x5
  - A real connection of schools to the workforce
  - Trade school opportunities and programs in current schools and colleges
- Technology center – x2
- Incubation and accelerator spaces for local businesses
  - Co-ops
- Amenities that will attract and retain young families in the neighborhood

## HEALTH

Departments and Agencies: HHD, MOED

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Fresh food is brought regularly through food fairs – x4
  - Farmers Market at Kashmere Gardens Elementary School on 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month
  - Food pantries
  - Target Hunger
- There is a hospital close by – x3
  - Lyndon B. Johnson (LBJ) hospital is a benefit to the neighborhood
- The services the multi-service provides to the seniors - x2
  - Provides health info and wellbeing of the residents
  - Provides multiple services for health care disparities
- Improvements to health resources
  - Legacy community clinic
  - Garden area at LBJ Hospital – x2

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Need for more healthy, fresh food options – x7
  - Educational programs to grow fresh food
  - Nutritional programs
  - Need a community garden – Cavalcade

- Lack of access to medical services and facilities – x5
  - Pharmacies
  - No urgent care facilities, eye clinics, dentist
  - Mental health resources
- Food desert – x3

Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Healthier and various food options – x5
- Accessible medical facilities/clinics – x4
- Self-sustaining community

## **CIVIC ENGAGEMENT**

Departments and Agencies: ONAIC, DON, HISD

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Active community with strong leaders at the grassroots level – x10
- People come together as a unit – x8
  - People that serve the community are dedicated
  - People dedicated to improvements and revitalizations of the community post-Harvey
- Generations of families and their strong ties to this community – x4
- Many new families with young children – x3
- Multi-service center
- Super Neighborhood
- Different nationalities
- Senior involvement
- Accessibility to be an active member of the community
- Churches

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Need to get younger populations involved with the community – x4
  - Youth leadership/mentorship
- Outreach – informing community of meetings, events – x3
  - Need for more information about city services (such as water quality due to concerns over water/drinking quality)
- Elected officials should open an office here
- Too much work for the residents to make the community better
  - Need for the city and other partners to step in

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Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Increased local network and communication news (letters)
  - e.g., Seeds of the Soil
- Senior citizen community centers
  - Community meeting places where the elderly can meet and information can be distributed
  - Have excellent services and programs for seniors at Kashmere MSC
- Residents are good neighborhoods, friendly and look out for each other
- A youth that feels engaged/ties to this community

## **SAFETY AND RESILIENCE**

Departments and Agencies: ARA, R, HT, OPSHS, HCFCD, DON, HPW, HPD, HFD

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Sense of community
- BARC's involvement in the area
- Homestead detention basin helps eliminate flooding

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Flooding – x7
  - Bayou floods frequently
  - Drainage issues in various areas (Pichfoir?)
  - Illegal dumping causes floods – Liberty Road (along train track) and Majestic Street – x2
  - Areas suffering from Harvey (Rand St.) still working on assistance and were impacted from previous flood events (tax flood/memorial flood)
  - Not enough ditches to address flooding
  - Hirsch, Homestead and Lockwood all flood badly
- Lighting – x4
  - Streetlights are out, Centerpoint unresponsive
  - Lack of lighting along trails
  - Lights near bus stops
- Police Patrol – x3
  - Need for a police station
  - More police patrol and visibility, including sheriff's department
  - Bike police patrol
- Drug and Prostitution – x2
  - On Crane Street and Lockwood Dr and Rand Street
- Stray Animals
  - BARC needs more funding to be open more days

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Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Flooding is addressed
  - No flooding on Cavalcade, 59, Collingsworth
- No dumping
- Good drainage system
- More sustainable flood plans – improved bayous, detention and drainage

## HOUSING

Departments and Agencies: HCD, DON, MOHI, HLB

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Availability of underdeveloped land – x4
  - Has great potential for growth/development
- Single-family homes
- Bungalows and big yards
- Lot size are large
- Affordable

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- More senior housing
- More partnership with churches
  - Partner with the city for affordable housing
- Gentrification
  - Development/Developers buying up land/property
- Rising rent + cost of living
- Abandoned homes and properties, dangerous buildings
  - Crane Street
  - Brewster Street
  - Linn Street
- Disrepair homes
  - Homes still in disrepair from Harvey
  - Senior homes in poor conditions
- Homelessness
  - Along freeways
  - Providing services that give attention to the homeless population in the neighborhood

Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Affordable and mixed rate housing
- Mixed-use housing

- Affordable senior living homes
- Better low-income housing through inheritance process, not lost property – x2
- More single-family housing
- Facelift without gentrifying – don't move people out of the neighborhoods, make an effort to improve from within
- Old properties are being maintained
  - Many comment that once some of the other residents pass away, their children will sell the properties because they do not see the value in fixing/updating them. As a result, there is more and more property loss/abandoned houses/developers coming in
  - It would be nice to teach these younger generations the tax laws so that they know that it is in fact feasible for them to keep the properties

## **NEIGHBORHOOD CHARACTER and BEAUTIFICATION**

Departments and Agencies: DON, MOCA, SWM

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Character of the neighborhood
- Historical aspect of the neighborhood
- Important figures came from Kashmere Gardens
- Single-family homes
- Bungalows and big yards
- Lot sizes are large
- The community – the people that live here want to live here

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Illegal dumping
  - Too much dumping on Liberty Road (along train track), Majestic Street, and Lockwood Drive and Crane Street – 3900 Lockwood
  - Dumping at Pardee and Hutchinson Park – Resorts in the park looking abandoned
  - On Cavalcade
  - Plenty occurs after a disaster
  - In apartments
  - Need for security cameras
- Apartment complex full of trash outside dumpster – Cavalcade and Lavender Streets in the median, flat trusses
- Concern to ensure history is shared
- Upgrades for community centers
- Low utility lines – x2
  - Go through middle of property
- Dirty water, mosquitos
- More tree trimming along power lines

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Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Clean/free of illegal dumping
- Clean and landscaped street ways
  - Esplanades and freeways
- More organized neighborhood cleanups
- Arts in the neighborhood and an amphitheater
- Increase in structures and sculptures (along Allen parkway)
- Cultural theaters
- Senior citizen community centers
- Multi-use buildings

## **MOBILITY and INFRASTRUCTURE**

Departments and Agencies: METRO, HPB, HPW, MOVA, MOPD

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Close proximity to downtown and entertainment – x8
- Bordered by three major thoroughfares: 610, 59, I10, Liberty Road. And two major roads crossing through it: Cavalcade and Collingsworth
  - Freeway access
- Bus routes, despite the improvements needed for frequency
- Existing transit center nearby neighborhood

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- METRO connection into neighborhood
  - Better communication and collaboration with METRO
    - More options than METRO Lift
- Poor streets for emergencies
- Lack of sidewalks
  - Need sidewalks on Stanton/Collingsworth
- Existing sidewalks in poor condition
- Speeding issues
  - Along Hirsch, Reed, King, Crane, and Bennington, Majestic, and Cavalcade, Pardee
  - Through neighborhood to get to I-610 – x2
- Need for speed bumps around schools
- Improve infrastructure for people with disabilities and veterans
- Lockwood and Cavalcade bus shelters and routes are not up to standard
- Poor pedestrian safety on Lockwood
- On-street bike lanes do not guarantee enough safety
- Bike lanes are difficult to understand/read for the elderly who still drive around the neighborhood
  - One issue occurs at Jensen and Kelly

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- Transporting seniors to events and activities
  - Wayside/Ley Rd – many people do not pay attention to the light at this intersection
    - 3 seniors have been hit, kids cross at this intersection as well

Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- A train down Lockwood
- Sidewalks
- Better pedestrian access to parks and schools
- Well paved and maintained roads
- Better medians
- Larger walkways
- More efficient transit center
- Bike lanes and trails
- Improved bus services
  - More routes going to economic centers – TMC and Downtown
- Buses connecting to light rail

## **PARKS and COMMUNITY AMENITIES**

Departments and Agencies: HPARD, HPB, HPL, DON

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Mickey Leland and Hutcheson Park – hike and bike trails – x3
- Library – x3

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Library is closed – need for reopening the library – x5
- Lack of neighborhood parks

Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Library is reopened – x2
- More green spaces
- Well-maintained parks
- A Levy Park
- Gazebos – indoor amenities in parks
- Community centers – such as Finnegan Park
- Dog parks
- Improved park on Russel Street – Leeland and Tuffly Parks

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## EDUCATION

Departments and Agencies: MOE, HISD

Activity 1: Strengths and what we love most about Kashmere Gardens

- Schools
  - Seven schools share dialogue and community (feeder pattern)
- Strong educational values

Activity 2: What are the challenges Kashmere Gardens faces?

- Lack of after school options for students – x4
- Getting students to college
  - Programs, mentorship, helping them reach college/higher education
  - Getting to the constituents
  - Getting the CORRECT information to them

Activity 3: In 10 years when Kashmere Gardens is a Complete Community, how would you describe it...what would the community have?

- Access to more educational venues – online, community centers, neighborhood hubs
- All schools to have a computer lab
- Teachers are paid more
- Young and young adult programming in summer and after school programs
- Parents involved in the community and local schools
- Better special education for kids that are behind in school to avoid them falling in the cracks
  - Literacy program – extracurricular for kids that are behind in reading

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# ***Complete Communities***

## ***Kashmere Gardens Kick-Off***



### **REQUESTED CITY DEPARTMENTS AND OUTSIDE AGENCIES**

#### **City Departments**

- Houston Planning and Development Department - **PD**
- Houston Public Works - **HPW**
- Houston Public Library - **HPL**
- Houston Health Department - **HHD**
- Houston Police Department - **HPD**
- Houston Fire Department - **HFD**
- Department of Neighborhoods - **DON**
- Houston Parks and Recreation Department - **HPARD**
- Housing and Community Development Department - **HCD**
- Office of Business Opportunity - **OBO**
- Office of New Americans and Immigrant Communities - **ONAI**
- Administration and Regulatory Affairs/BARC - **ARA**
- Solid Waste Management Department - **SWM**

#### **Mayor's Office**

- Office of Complete Communities - **MOCC**
- Office for Homeless Initiatives - **MOHI**
- Office of Innovation - **MOI**
- Office for People with Disabilities - **MOPD**
- Office of Cultural Affairs - **MOCA**
- Office of Economic Development - **MOED**
- Office of Education - **MOE**
- Office of Veteran Affairs - **MOVA**
- Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security - **OPSHS**
- Human Trafficking - **HT**
- Resilience - **R**

#### **Outside Agencies**

- HISD
- Houston Parks Board - **HPB**
- METRO
- Houston Land Bank - **HLB**
- Harris County Flood Control District - **HCFC**